

December 5, 2014

# Weekly Views

Branchville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community raised more than \$620 to benefit the Prevent Child Abuse Indiana Fund through a Krispy Kreme fundraiser. Branchville offenders had the opportunity to purchase the delicious donuts. The event, which raised an amount far exceeding expectations, was led by Mr. Michael Rounds, one of Branchville's Addiction Recovery Specialists. Branchville is honored to support such a worthy cause.

The Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) offender organization at the Indiana State Prison has donated over 300 crocheted hats and scarves to crocheted hats and scarves to two local charities, the Northwest Indiana Catholic in Merrillville and the YWCA of North Central Indiana in South Bend. Additionally, each of these charities received monetary donations of \$500. (photo right)



Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) celebrated the first graduates of the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) Animal Trainer program. Each offender went through a rigorous interview, background check and three months of training before dogs from the Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) were introduced into the facility. Everyone successfully fulfilled 288 hours of classroom training and 3600 hours of on-the-job training. Tommie Jones, program graduate, expressed his gratitude for the program and special bond between himself and his first dog, Claire, stating, "She saw something in me that I didn't see in myself."



Miami Correctional Facility's (MCF) Internal Affairs Director, Lorna Harbaugh, visited North Miami High School for a Career Day taking along Officer Montrel McGee and his K-9 partner. Harbaugh is invited every year to speak to the students about MCF and the different job opportunities. "It has been a pretty cool experience. Last year, I talked about contraband coming inside the facility, what contraband is and what we do as staff to stop it," stated Harbaugh. "This year I was able to take Officer McGee with me. We did demonstrations with the dog and discussed the ways we keep the facility and its staff safe." (photo left)

The Carlisle Ambulance Service (CAS) has received a helping hand from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). Superintendent Richard Brown presented CAS representative Jack Harney with a check for \$500! The hometown service is responsible for buying its own gear, recently staging fundraising events to cover much needed new equipment costs. The Carlisle Ambulance Service has been a big help over the years providing emergency transports for WVCF staff and offenders. The donation was possible thanks to Wabash PLUS and Fatherhood program participants. (photo right)



Members of the Northwest Jaycees, an offender organization located inside the Indiana State Prison, held a March of Dimes Walk-a-thon. The men who walked or ran had sponsors inside the prison that helped them raise the money. In the end, the Jaycees presented a check for \$2,342.14 to Mr. Victor Garcia, March of Dimes Division Director of Northwest Indiana.



Aramark conducted a job fair at the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF). Ten members from the community and six IREF residents filled out applications and interviewed with Aramark Program Manager Melissa Hess for possible job opportunities within the food industry. (photo left)

Jason Rippe has been named as Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) newest Lieutenant. Rippe began as an officer in June 2003 and made Sergeant just ten months later. He transferred to Camp Summit in November 2008 and returned to WCC in April 2012. He has been a member of E-Squad and was most recently in the lock shop.

Superintendent Ron Neal and the Indiana State Prison would like to congratulate Milton Williams on his recent graduation from the PEN Products Offender Workforce Development Specialist Program. Outstanding job!

Lemuel Vega and approximately 60 volunteers delivered Christmas packages filled with snacks and food items to the offenders at the Pendleton during the annual Christmas Behind Bars event. Prior to distribution, PCF staff inspected the packages and prepared dozens of carts to deliver the gifts to the housing units. The Christmas Behind Bars program reaches out to offenders throughout Indiana and the United States delivering their message of hope.

Jack Harney, recently retired WVCF Armory Sergeant, received special recognition from the IDOC! Superintendent Brown surprised Harney with the presentation of The State of Indiana Office of the Commissioner Certificate. Commissioner Bruce Lemmon extended his appreciation to Sergeant Harney for the dedication and professionalism displayed during his 32 years of service to the Department. Sergeant Harney served at the Putnamville Correctional Facility before moving to Wabash Valley in 1992.

Westville held a graduation for the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) program. 55 came to the facility to show their support for the 42 offender graduates. Westville's culinary arts department made cake, coffee and punch for the event. This was the first PLUS graduation for Superintendent Mark Sevier since his arrival to Westville, and he was honored to be the guest speaker.